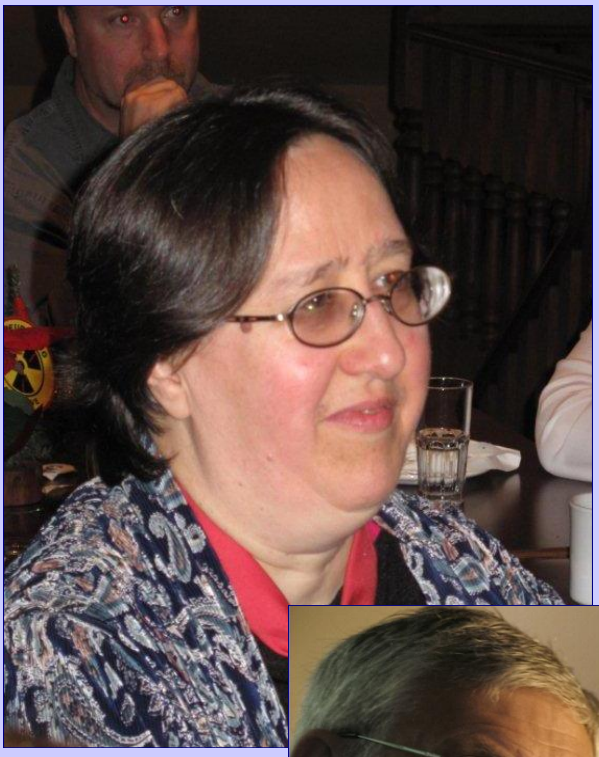
SARC Communicator

Contest Reports
See Page 9



January 2012

Meet The SARC 'Amateurs of the Year'
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ve7sar.net

The Monthly Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club

SURREY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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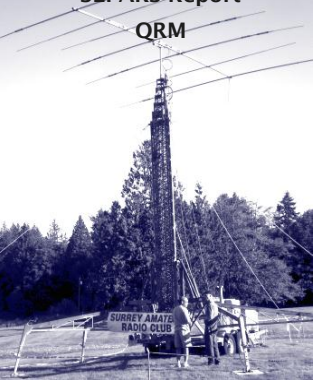
The **SARC Communicator** is published monthly for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

SARC maintains a website at **www.ve7sar.net** that includes club history, meetings, news and other information.

IN THIS ISSUE



December ~~Meeting~~ *Christmas Party*

The Tradition Continues

The ABC Family Restaurant at 20th Ave and King George Blvd was the venue for SARC's 2011 Christmas party. The general opinion of attendees was that this was an ideal location for our event considering its roominess, attractive decor and privacy – thanks to Gary Skett VE7AS for suggesting it. We had about 50 attendees - members, spouses and guests including Mike Andrews of Emergency Management BC, his wife Rocio VE7RCO; Andy Lo of Surrey Fire Services and his wife Mary.

Considerable effort and thought went into the planning, especially by the organizing committee comprised of Bill Little VA7ZBL, Jinty Reid VA7JMR, Susan Eshelmann VE7IIE and Dennis Jackson VE7DGJ.

After a social hour, President John Brodie VA7XB got things underway with introductions of SARC Executive and Directors, recent ham class graduates (Bhim Sen Nair VA7BIM, Kapila Jayaweera VE7KGK, George Cooley VA7GCD and Duncan Robertson VA7DCN) and the aforementioned guests. Before lunch was served, Jinty VA7JMR gave thanks, with special mention of one of our members who is going

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7OFH Standby	Drew VA7DRW
2nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Standby	Alan VA7BIT
3rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	John VA7XB
4th Tuesday	Bill VE7XS Dixie VA7DIX Standby	Anton VE7SSD
5th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMK	Bill VE7XS
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the Net Manager ve7ti@separs.net		

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, (optional Tone Squelch 110.9) also accessible on IRLP node 1980 and Echo-link node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 Coming soon, a repeater at 224.000MHz (-1.6MHz).

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2011-2012

PRESIDENT
John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT
Bill Gipps VE7XS

SECRETARY
Susan Eshelman VE7IIE

TREASURER
Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORS
Kelvin Hall VA7KPH (SEPARS)

John Schouten VE7TI (Communicator Editor & Net Manager)

Gary Skett VE7AS (Education/Training)

George Merchant VE7QH (Repeaters)

Bill Little VA7ZBL (Membership)

Chris Zetner VA7CMZ

through difficult times. A buffet lunch consisting of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, vegetables and roast potatoes was then served.

While attendees enjoyed coffee and dessert, John VA7XB presented the "Year in Review" (*see page 16*), noting that the past 12 months have been marked by several significant milestones and successes which contributed to the club's growing membership base. The year-in-review concluded with a showing of an entertaining field day video made by John Schouten VE7TI.

Gary VE7AS followed with a look-ahead to 2012's program of activities including speakers, a kit-building initiative, and ham classes. Awards to three deserving SARC members were next: the many contributions of Bill Little VA7ZBL, Susan VE7IIE and John VE7TI were acknowledged and certificates presented (respectively) by Susan VE7IIE, Kelvin VA7KPH and George VE7QH (*see details Page 5*).

Then Jinty VA7JMR recited "The Night Before Christmas – Ham Radio Style" after which the draw for door prizes commenced. Door prizes were a combination of purchases made with club funds, donations from merchants including gift certificates and a large number of ham-related items generously contributed by Radiotronics/Gary VE7AS. Also included in the draw were table centerpieces made by Susan VE7IIE – did everyone notice the electronic component and Christmas "ham" ornaments on their tree (*see photo*).

Gary organized the draw for a Baofeng UV-3R handheld radio, which was won by Rick Law VE7GMO. Special thanks are due to Al Saunders VA7BIT of Creative Image Setting for donating the ever-popular repeater frequency cards.

The party concluded with thanks to Hugo and the friendly ABC staff for a great buffet meal, to the party organizers and gift donors.

DOWN THE LOG…

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wednesday (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs local at the Emergency Management BC PREOC, 14275 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0830 local
ABC Country Restaurant at 600 - 7380 King George Blvd. Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

Announcements & News

Next SARC Meeting
Second Wed. Jan 11th at 1900 PEP PREOC, 14275 - 96th Avenue, Surrey,
Marine Mobile Operation

SEPARS Monthly Workshop
Third Thursday, 1900-2130 local Rm. 214, 13569 - 76th Avenue, Surrey.

SEPARS Training
Fourth Saturday, Jan 28th, 0830 local, Firehall #1, 88 & 132nd Street, Surrey

On the Web
ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements may also be found on our web page.

Twitter
@ve7sar

SEPARS Report Kelvin Hall VA7KPH

To all a Happy New Year. In the new year SEPAR will take on the task of outfitting the new Communications Trailer and exercising it within the realm of Emergency Communications Response.

SEPAR will continue to educate the younger groups at local schools and libraries under the guidance of Fred Orsetti and Marcy Louie and their numerous volunteers.

If we start the ham operators at a young age we will have our replacements by the time we retire and can take satisfaction in the knowledge that we are leaving the City safer.

Within the realm of education, we are all familiar with the hazards of floods, interface fires and earthquakes, but how many of the 57 Hazards can you identify? How many of the hazards can you respond to?

Does the acronym CBRNE bring fear to you or are you prepared for its components. During 2012 SEPAR will take a more in depth look at what hazards exist and how SEPAR can respond.

Part of the response is having an excellent knowledge of the SEPAR equipment, where it is, how to set it up, how to operate it and how to put it to bed for the next emergency.

SEPAR will be doing an exercise with the Surrey Emergency Social Services (ESS) agency to test our skills and to familiarize the ESS staff with our capacity to provide emergency communications when all 'normal' communications lines are down.

SEPAR is a part of the larger Surrey Emergency Program and we need to make our presence known as we do form a vital link in the program.

Please join the Tuesday Night SEPAR Net at 1930 hrs on 147.360 MHz Tone 110.9, the 3rd Thursday evening classroom workshop each month and the 4th Saturday Fire Hall #1 Workshop.

More information can be found at the SEPAR web site at www.separs.net or contact me at va7kph@separs.net

Once again have a Happy New Year and stay safe

———

SEPAR meets every third Thursday evening from 1900 - 2130 hrs at 13569 76th Avenue Surrey V3W 2W3 and every fourth Saturday morning at Fire hall #1 from 0900 -1200 hrs.

SEPAR is always looking for new members to assist the community in times of emergency situations. SEPAR offers training in the Incident Command System (ICS), the use of radios during emergencies and the integration of SEPAR in the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). If you are up to the challenge please contact me at va7kph@separs.net

Please join our Tuesday night net 1930 hrs on 147.360(+) tone 110.9

SEPAR Weekly Net… California Style

It was an unusual SEPAR Net night on Tuesday, December 20th when our regular Net Control Operator was unavailable. John VE7TI, SARC Net Manager, who had tuned in via Echolink from Palm Springs, California volunteered to take the net as an experiment.

Emergency communications are unpredictable and the more options that are available, the better our response capability so, it was only a matter of time before an Internet-assisted mode was used to run a net from 2000+ Km away. Overall it worked pretty well. Signal reports were very favorable (John was using an iPod Touch on WiFi at his end).

The only glitch was a couple of check-ins cut-off at the start of their transmissions, likely because of the latency of a VoIP connection. A very brief pause after keying the mic easily overcomes this issue. Net control was turned over to Kelvin VA7KPH for the weekly RadioGram training message and returned to Palm Springs for the closing of the net.

As far as we can determine, this was the first time that a regularly scheduled 2m emergency group net was run from this great a distance—internationally yet!

While there is no plan to make this a regular occurrence, it's satisfying to know that it is possible.

Radio-Active John Brodie VA7XB

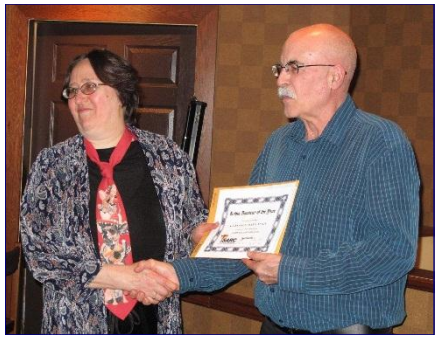
It has become a tradition at our annual Christmas Party that we recognize those members who have delivered extraordinary service either to the club, to amateur radio, or to both. Today we continue with that tradition. There are no physical or cash rewards involved, just the recognition of our peers. SARC has many suitable candidates for this award within our ranks, and it is always a challenge to pare it down to a reasonable number from the nominations received from the membership. Although we call it "Amateur of the Year" in fact we have not been able to limit it to one, so today we propose to recognize and thank three of our members whose contributions stand out. Recipients in past years have been Hiu VE7YXG, Fred VE7IO, Bill VE7XS, Gary VE7AS, Ken VE7BC, Anton VE7SSD, Kjeld VE7GP and John VA7XB.

Award to Bill Little

In any organization, we all know how difficult it is to get volunteers to do the mundane - but necessary - chores that don't bring much recognition because the volunteers are in the background. Among this small group, one person in particular stands out. This member has been actively involved in the organization of our two most recent flea markets. He manages our ever-growing membership list, keeping track of names, callsigns, and contact information. This is a bigger job than you might imagine, and few of us have the necessary command of detail that the job entails. This SARC member also took on the big job of organizing our Christmas Party, despite being a relatively new member. Bill recently suffered a great personal loss, so he could not be with us today. Bill, in your absence we offer this award with our sincere gratitude for all the diligent and capable work you do for the Surrey Club. You are very much in our thoughts today, and all of us here send our hopes and prayers for you and your family.

Award to Susan Eshelmann

This award is to a relatively new member who has shown a remarkable willingness to get involved. All the signs were there from the beginning. I recall that she was the only student at the Spring 2010 ham class who achieved 100% in her basic exam, and she stands out in our memory as the one asking all the tough questions of the instructor. We were not wrong about her potential, as she made it clear she was willing to get involved, and is now our Secretary. She comes full of imaginative ideas to make our organization better, but doesn't stop at ideas… she gets right down and does the hard work to make these ideas a reality. Our website redesign was her idea and she had the know-how to make it happen, which is exactly what she did. Despite no previous radio operating experience she has displayed an eagerness to participate and has done so at several events, including field day and a few contests. She writes a monthly column in the Communicator column introducing SARC members. She is now working on the task that no one wanted to tackle – organization of club documents and preparation of a marketing plan for the club. It was her idea to promote a special event involving hams in India through her contacts in that part of the world. Susan Eshelmann, please receive this award, and our thanks, for your many contributions and your enthusiasm on behalf of SARC.



Award to John Schouten

This member came to us from another part of the city when he retired to Surrey. He has been a mover and a shaker wherever he goes. A prominent member of VECTOR before he joined SARC, he made a big impact there. Since joining SARC and SEPARS a few years ago, he was involved in running ham classes until Gary took over, more recently has organized ICS training for SEPARS and other emergency organizations, and played a major role in our field day planning. He also is Net Manager for SARC and SEPARS. This year he took over from Fred in publishing the Communicator newsletter and what a great job he has done. The Communicator provides a window into SARC from the outside world, and we have had no end of compliments about it. This man applies a professional approach to everything he does, and in so doing promotes ham radio and SARC as few others have done. This award of distinction goes to John Schouten VE7TI, who at this moment is on vacation in Palm Springs.

Feature

Marine Mobile

Amateur Radio On The Water

The January SARC meeting will feature Marine Mobile operation, with a talk from Dr. Mark Frobb VE7TLZ on his sailing trip to Maui and back – 43 days of sailing with Ham Radio.

Most countries' amateur radio licenses allow licensed operators to install and use radio transmission equipment while at sea. Such operation is known as maritime mobile amateur radio. In most cases the operator's call sign needs to be extended by adding the suffix '/MM' when transmitting at sea.

There are some special considerations when installing and using amateur radio transmitters and receivers afloat. These include power supply, RF ground, antenna design and EMC (Electromagnetic compatibility) with other electronic equipment aboard.

or MF and HF use, the most common antenna design is to add two RF insulators into the backstay of the mast and feed it from the transceiver using a sintered bronze ground plate, bolted to the outside of the hull, well under the waterline, as a ground. On metal hulled boats the ground plate can be dispensed with, and the whole hull used for this purpose. In this case, the thickness of any paint layer is entirely negligible at RF. On a yacht with twin backstays, if insulators are placed in both of them and they are fed from the masthead, they may be usable as an 'inverted vee' avoiding the need to feed the antenna against ground. Either format will require the use of an ATU (Antenna Tuning Unit) to achieve resonance for the HF frequency in use, as the physical length of the antenna will almost invariably be incorrect at the frequency of choice. A few twin-masted sailing vessels have the space to erect a "Tee" antenna or an inverted "L" between masts. These antenna configurations are more common on merchant ships.

For VHF and UHF operation, one option is to mount a small yagi antenna to a pole 1–2 m (3–6 ft) long and haul this to the masthead using a flag halyard. If the halyard is correctly knotted to the middle and bottom of the pole, it is easy enough to make the antenna project above the clutter at the masthead into clear air. The problem is in rotating it - it usually needs to be lowered and re-raised to alter the direction of its beam. For the safety of masthead fittings and lights it is better if these yagis are light in weight and made largely of, for example, plastic tubes supporting internal wire conductors. Operating in this way is best reserved for when in harbour or at anchor, to avoid interfering with the operation of the boat. Repeated loss of signal due to rolling and pitching would make it impractical for useful communication at sea anyway.

For FM operation on the 2 m band, the masthead vertical whip that is normally installed for marine VHF operation will provide good omni-directional, vertically polarized signals. The frequency of operation around 145 MHz is close enough to the antenna's design frequency of 156 MHz that most amateur transceivers will not need an ATU and will not suffer unduly from a poor (high) SWR.

Grounding

For a single-ended HF antenna, a good electrical ground connection is essential. It is also necessary from the points of view of safety and EMC considerations on any radio transmitter installation on a boat or ship. As mentioned above, metal-hulled vessels have a natural advantage in that, especially at HF and lower frequencies, the hull can be considered to be in contact with the water, as the insulating properties of the paint layer against the water is a capacitance that presents very little electrical impedance to the RF currents. For fibreglass and wooden hulls and HF transmission, the usual solution is to attach a sintered bronze plate to the outside of the hull for RF ground. The construction of a sintered bronze plate is porous to water so that although the plate may be only a square foot or two and an inch thick, the actual surface area of metal in electrical contact with the water is very many times that.

Next SARC Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

The next meeting of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club will feature marine mobile operations. All you boaters will be especially interested in this meeting! Our guest presenter will be Mark Frobb VE7TLZ.

Once a good connection to the sea water has been established, it is necessary to make a good RF connection from the transceiver and/or the ATU to the grounding system. While it might seem that a good, thick wire is all that is needed, for large RF currents it is usually recommended that copper grounding tape is used. This is not because thick wires will not be able to support the currents involved, but because it is more likely that RF currents will remain flowing along something that has a wide surface area without re-transmitting themselves along the way due to skin effect. The key pathway from the ATU of a single-ended antenna system to the ground plate, or the hull ground-point, should be as short and as straight as possible. This should be considered from the start when deciding where to mount the various components within the hull. There is not much that the installer can do about the losses in, and the efficiencies of, the transceiver, the ATU, the antenna or its feed, but extra effort put into the efficiency of the ground paths will pay much bigger dividends, in terms of radiated power and freedom from EMC problems later, than any other single aspect of the installation. The salty sea makes an exceptionally good ground plane, and effort put into achieving a good connection to it will be handsomely repaid.

Going on a cruise?

You will first need the permission of the cruise ship company itself to even have an Amateur Radio transmitter in your possession while on board (whether in use or not). So your first step is to make sure you have written authorization to have your radio with you.

Next, besides the company itself you will need to have permission of the ship's captain in order to use the radio. Do not assume you can simply throw up a vertical outside of your stateroom and operate!

Once you have authorization top operate ship board, you still have to worry about reciprocal operating privileges with the country where your ship is, including territorial waters.

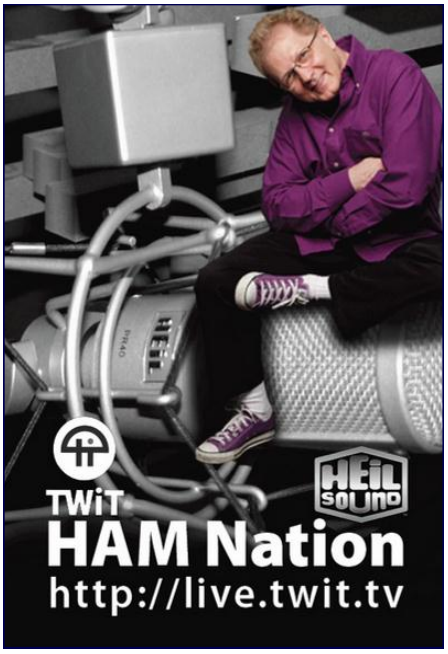
When an FCC licensed amateur is operating an amateur rig aboard a US-registered vessel in international waters, he or she must follow Part 97 of the FCC rules, particularly Section 97.11. US and Canadian licensees need no special permit or authorization other than their own Industry Canada or FCC license as long as Section 97.11 is followed and they stay within the US and International waters.

If the ship is of foreign registry, you must obtain a reciprocal operating authorization from the country of registry in addition to being in compliance with Section 97.11. When amateurs enter the territorial waters of a country, they fall under their communications jurisdiction. This means that they must obtain the required reciprocal operating authorization. There are three such authorizations: CEPT which applies to most European countries and certain overseas territories; IARP which applies to certain countries in the America's; Reciprocal Permit which is available from most countries, but application must be made to the country and a fee paid.

Tentative Schedule of Presenters

A sneak peek ahead to the first part of 2011 reveals a number of topics that should be of interest to many SARC members. Gary VE7AS is working to plan the February, March and April with Software-Defined Radio (SDR) themes, each month having a speaker talk about and demo three different types of SDR – One VHF to SHF receiver, the Flex radio, and the MSDR HF Receiver soon-to-be transceiver add-on [kit] to some popular museum radios like the Icom IC-7000 or late model Yaesu.

May is scheduled as Contest Prep month, where we talk about various contest logs, how to operate in a contest, all the contests – just about every weekend – QSL card exchange [using eQSL & ARRL's log book of the world] and other such awards.



As usual, June will be devoted to Field Day, so that month no speaker is scheduled as we usually use the whole meeting to prepare for Field Day.

Application Notes Gary Skett VE7AS

One of handiest tools for the Ham Shack workbench is a Weller soldering gun. It's a 100 and 140 watt gun in a good old Bakelite case. This year it's celebrating its 40th year on the work bench. The thing has been dropped so many times, it's a miracle the gun still works, but thanks to several tubes of 5-minute epoxy and some crazy glue, it's still in fine working condition.

But recently the little incandescent pilot lamp/tip illuminator burnt out and I just couldn't find the right replacement bulb… a 2.0 volt bulb with a focusing lens at the end, something you used to be able to find in a common flashlight… a common flashlight 40 years ago. So while hunting in my parts bin, I came across a white light LED and decided to update the old gun with a modern light source.

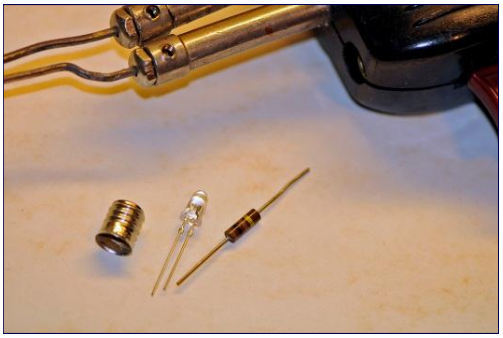
So I removed the bulb from it's screw base, found the right current-limiting resistor for 20ma at 2 volts and proceeded to assemble my new LED spot light.

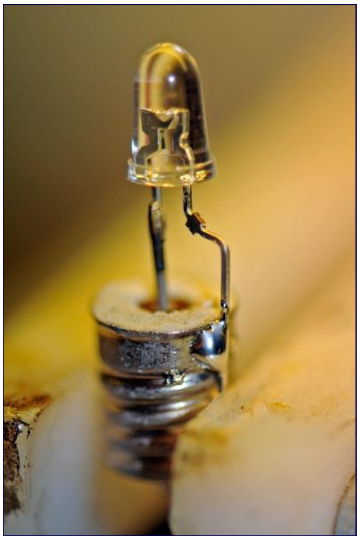
There are a few things to ponder… the gun supplies 2v AC, your LED is a diode, so it's going to work on one half the cycle, which translates into less light output…

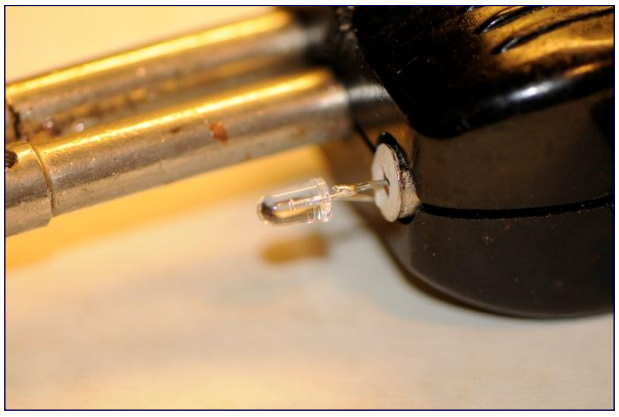
Also the junction breakdown voltage is rather low on a LED, so if one were to use higher AC voltages, it would most likely "expire" rather quickly. But it's only 2 volts, so I wasn't worried. You could put a 1N4007 in series on the other lead to help the LED deal with reverse voltages, but only if you were working with higher than 6-9 VAC.

So to hold things in place, I potted the resistor in epoxy putty, which set in 3 minutes and then soldered the LED to it. I only had a ½ watt resistor, larger than I needed but it fit nicely in the screw base. So if I wanted a 20mA current draw, that would be R = E / I = 2/.02 = 100 ohms and I just happened to have a 100 ohm resistor in my parts cabinet. P (in watts) = E x I = 2 x .02 = .04 watts or 40 mW of heat dissipation so a ½ watt resistor wasn't necessary, but it was the only size I have in stock and size wasn't an issue.

A few minutes later I had a modern light source in an antique tool… but would it work? But of course… for ½ the cycles per second -- so the light from it wasn't as bright as I was hoping, but good enough to shed a bit of illumination on what was being soldered and certainly adequate for a pilot light to verify the gun was on. OK for younger eyes, but this old buzzard needs a few more candle power! Why didn't I put a tiny bridge rectifier on the power leads to feed the LED with better DC? Cause it was only a 2 volt tap off the coil inside the gun.. and for every diode you insert, you lose 0.7 of a volt. Why did I need this in the first place you ask? Well the tips of my fingers and tongue hadn't recovered from my earlier attempts to see if the soldering tip was getting hot!







The Contest Contender

Fred Orsetti VE7IO & Jim Smith VE7FO

ARRL SSB Sweepstakes 2011

Eight members of the Operator Training Group signed up for the 2011 Sweep Stakes (SS) SSB contest operating VE7IO's station. The contest began with the now standard orientation session when beginning their shift and then moved into the "Search and Pounce" (S&P) mode. Sweep Stakes has a challenging exchange so we continued with the "S&P mode for this contest however some operators are most definitely ready for the "Running" mode in the next contest.

Jim VE7FO, had sent and email to the ARRL contest users giving them a heads up about our operator training group which served us well providing us with some lighter moments during the contest.

Making it all worthwhile was logging the final Section with the West Pennsylvania station (WPA) station for our "Clean Sweep". We spotted him on the DX Cluster on 40 meters and we worked him within a couple of minutes. Just at the time Marcy, VE7JT, was calling him Jim phoned and asked how we were doing, it was 45 minutes before the end of the contest, I asked Jim to hold while I got confirmation from Marcy that we had a Clean Sweep and passed our success on to Jim,VE7FO. What a finish and a feather in the cap of all the operators who participated.

A renowned DXer, OH2BH, Marty Lane is noted for many things and one of those is this quote - "where to next" meaning where will we go for the next DXpedition?. We now have three contests behind us and the question is "what next"? Well we are looking at the ARRL 10 meter contest on December 10th 2011 which is both SSB and CW and failing that there is the RAC Winter contest on the weekend of December 17th just in case 10 meters does not cooperate.

My thanks to Jim, VE7FO,for his organization and training aids for each contest without this documentation and training structure we would most certainly not be as advanced as we are. As my call is the one out there front and center I am aware of the risks to my, well, "reputation" but let me state, in no uncertain terms, that I am very proud of the operators and their adherence to a professional code of conduct, thanks to everyone and I look forward to watching you enjoy Ham Radio in future contests.

ARRL 10m Contest

We have just completed our 4th operator training weekend with the ARRL 10 meter contest where we operated both SSB and CW and this is the last one for 2011.

I am sure everyone who has participated would agree that our ops have made measurable progress. This weekends 10 meter contest saw 2 of our operators moving up from the search and pounce mode to the running mode of operation and this is a significant step. Operating in the running mode requires your full focus on the calling stations and significantly increases your logging rate, congratulations. All operators are becoming more comfortable with N1MM and under the watchful eye of our dedicated trainer, Jim VE7FO, have learned the basic functions of N1MM. I am looking forward the next contest where I am sure more of our ops will take the step to operating in the running mode. This is an important step towards improving our score and building confidence in contest operation.

It has been a rewarding experience and a pleasure to have the operators in my shack for the past 3 contests. I sincerely hope that the ops in training have enjoyed the ride as much as I have.

I want to thank everyone for their kind treatment of my radios and their professional conduct while oprating with my callsign. I look forward to next year and continuing with our training program.

Merry Christmas to all the ops and their families and I wish you a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous 2012.

~ 73, Fred VE7IO

SOME OF THE NUTS AND BOLTS

INFORMATION EXCHANGED

In every contest the operators exchange some information, such as a Signal Report and contact serial number. The contents of the exchange are established by the rules set out by the contest sponsor.

In the case of the recently completed ARRL Sweepstakes the exchange is more complex. In addition, it is based on the National Traffic System Radiogram preamble. (see Radiogram below)

Number - the contact serial number

Precedence - a single letter indicating the category in which the station is commenting.

Handling instructions - not used

Station of Origin - Station call sign

Check - the last 2 digits of the year in which the station owner was licensed

Place of Origin - RAC/ARRL Section in which the station resides.

Date & Time Filed - not used

The SS Radiogram Operator Aid (see below) shows how it works in a hypothetical contact between W4ABC and VE7IO.

OBJECTIVES

There were two objectives for the trainees.

1. Build on the work done previously to become quicker and more confident.
2. Spend a significant portion of the allocated time calling CQ and working all comers (Running)

Were the objectives achieved?

1. I wasn't there for the whole session but, from what I saw, I would say this one was. Once people mastered the rather difficult exchange they started to do quite well at finding people we hadn't called yet and working them.
2. Well, the exchange did us in here. Not sure but I don't think anyone got the confidence level up to the point where they tried Running as opposed to tuning around to find someone to call. Next time.

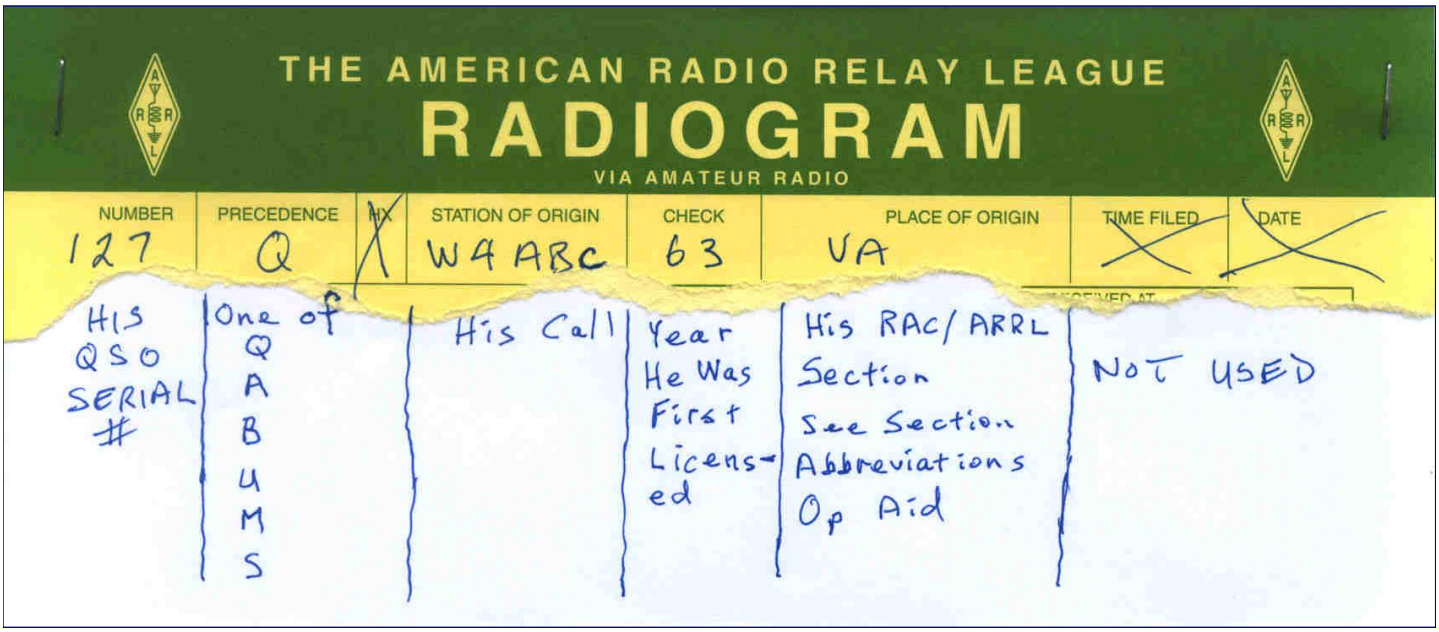
FINAL SCORE

Number of Contacts:	264
Contact Points:	528
Sections Worked:	80 (All of them)
Total Score:	42,240
Ranking:	We came 9th out of 10 in our category.

Thanks to all the ops who made good use of this opportunity to increase their skill levels.

~ 73, Jim VE7FO

Below: *Our operators found this exchange to be quite challenging, even though in an EMCOMM environment they will be expected to pass message traffic with preambles just like this. I suspect that this has more to do with the pressure of the contest environment than it does with our operators' abilities. The difficulty of the Sweepstakes exchange is a common thread on the contest reflectors every year at this time.*



SARC Snapshot 2011 Christmas Party

Photos from the SARC Christmas party provided by Anton VE7SSD
The ABC Family Restaurant at 20th Ave and King George Blvd was the venue for SARC's 2011 Christmas party.
Additional Photos

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Additional Photos

News You Can Lose The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio

Ham Radio in Hollywood: Comedian Tim Allen Stars as Radio Amateur on New TV Show

Tim Allen -- star of Home Improvement, Toy Story, The Santa Clause and Galaxy Quest, just to name a few -- stars in Last Man Standing, an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of Last Man Standing -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. The episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is currently scheduled to air in mid-January.

"Tim's character Mike is involved in creating the sales strategy for the store, including their catalog and Internet identity," Amodeo told the ARRL. "The store is like Bass Pro Shops or Cabelas. There is a strong self-sufficiency overtone to Mike's approach to life. Ham radio fits in the story as a means of emergency communication. It's not directly featured in the foreground story, but at the moment, it's a background element on the home set. Once I allow something to be put on the set, there's a chance the writers will feature it. Now that we have actually established Mike Baxter as KA0XTT, we can do more things featuring Amateur Radio."

To make Mike a ham, Amodeo needed Mike to have a call sign. So he contacted ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, to help him out. "In film and TV, we create fictitious telephone numbers, addresses and brands," Amodio explained. "We do this mostly to avoid being sued by real brands and to avoid complications with advertisers. As a producer and a ham, I was torn between wanting the show to be accurate and needing to keep my studios out of trouble. An accurate and positive portrayal of ham radio on TV would be a good thing." Many TV shows and movies use telephone numbers with a 555 exchange (such as 555-1212), as that exchange is not valid.

Together with Pitts, and with input from Tim Allen, Amodeo created a call sign for Mike Baxter: KA0XTT. Since the show is set in Colorado, they wanted Mike to have a call sign with a 0 in it. "We wanted a call sign that sounded real, but was not valid," Amodeo said. "The call sign is a 2×3 format with an X suffix. A call sign in this format is an experimental call sign and is not assignable to a radio amateur except in special circumstances. We especially liked the suffix, as it is a play on Tim's character from his former show, Home Improvement: 'ex-Tim Taylor.'"

Amodeo told the ARRL that both his studio (Fox) and ABC were "delighted to have a useable call sign. In the past, TV shows just made up some crazy call or used someone else's without permission. And because we've had so much talk about Amateur Radio here on the show, a few of my production assistants took their Technician exam." Amodeo applied to be an ARRL Volunteer Examiner so he could help administer the exams. On October 6, Amodeo and two other ARRL VEs administered the Technician exam to seven prospective hams. All seven passed, with two making perfect scores.

Since Mike Baxter is a ham, he needed a shack. So Amodeo and the set designers installed an Amateur Radio station in the corner of Mike's set office. Allen, as Baxter, uses an ICOM IC-9100 HF/6 meter/2 meter transceiver and an IC-92AD handheld transceiver, both provided to the show courtesy of ICOM America. Amodeo told the ARRL that he has plans to add vintage equipment to the shack in the future. "The radio equipment was originally intended to be used as props and set dressing items," Amodeo told the ARRL. "But since eight of the show's staff members are radio amateurs, it didn't take long before we made the radio equipment 'practical,' which is to say, actually capable of making radio calls live from the stage when we're not shooting." He said that radios will always be on and lit whenever they are shooting scenes in the office.

Pitts and ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, have been working with Amodio to make sure that Amateur Radio is correctly portrayed in the show. Keane also provided ARRL and Amateur Radio-related materials that are used on the set, such as issues of QST, NCJ and QEX, as well as a call sign map, a 2012 ARRL Handbook, a 2012 ARRL calendar and various ARRL stickers (look for one on the HF rig). "We also sent fake versions of DXCC, Worked All States and Worked All Continents certificates, as well as a Morse Code Proficiency Certificate," Keane explained. "Each certificate bears the name Mike Baxter and has KA0XTT as the call sign. All the certificates have issue dates of December 25, playing upon Tim Allen's role in The Santa Clause movie series."

Amodeo told the ARRL that he also installed a multi-band dipole, as well as antennas for 2 meters and 70 cm. "up high, about 50 feet, inside the sound stage. The ultimate goal is to have the hams on our staff make contacts from our stage during down times."

Last Man Standing also stars Nancy Travis (Three Men and a Baby) as Mike's wife and Hector Elizondo (Pretty Woman, The Princess Diaries, Monk) as Mike's boss. Amodio also produced the critically acclaimed Sports Night and Arrested Development.

'Net' Working Internet Resources for Hams

New RAC Store

Yes, we have amateur radio books and cds!

You may have already received our Bulletin announcing that the Radio Amateurs of Canada has a new online store: http://www.cafepress.ca/rac_radio.

For the first sixty days we will be offering only one book at that site, our RAC Hamstudy Basic 2010/2011.

For all other books and CDs and for affiliated club book discount orders please contact our office or our old online store. Our toll free number: 1-877-273-8304.

Ham Radio Population Map

This map by N0HR shows the countries of the world resized relative to the number of amateur radio licenses.

See the Ham Population map at

http://www.n0hr.com/ham_radio_population.htm

The data used is from the IARU website at

http://iaru.org/statsum00.html

Past Issues of 73 Magazine Now On-line for Free

73 Magazine (also known as 73 Amateur Radio Today, was a United States-based amateur radio magazine that was published from 1960 to 2003. It was known for its strong emphasis on technical articles and for the lengthy editorials in each issue by its founder and publisher, Wayne Green. The magazine title, 73, means "best regards" in amateur radio lingo. Green, a former editor of CQ Amateur Radio magazine, published the first issue of 73 in October 1960.

At that time, the magazine was headquartered in Brooklyn, New York. Among contributing editors was author and radio personality Jean Shepherd, K2ORS. The magazine was a pioneer promoter of SSB, FM, solid-state, easy construction projects, and the marriage of personal computing and amateur radio. His interest in microcomputing led Green to found several of the early personal computing magazines, including "Desktop Computing", Kilobaud Microcomputing, and 80 Micro, among others. Green was involved in the founding of Byte Magazine, another early and influential microcomputer magazine, later published by his wife, Virginia Londner Green. Since the summer of 1962, 73 was based in Peterborough, New Hampshire. At the peak of its popularity in the 1970s and 1980s, individual issues of 73 totaled more than 300 pages of advertisements, articles and commentary. Heading each issue was Green's editorial column, "Never Say Die", in which he often criticized the American Radio Relay League and his magazine's competitors for their perceived shortcomings. The title "Never Say Die" was a backronym for Green's amateur radio call sign, W2NSD.

After completing 43 years of publication, 73 Amateur Radio Today magazine ceased publication in October 2003. Publisher Wayne Green cited financial pressure from reduced advertising revenue as the prime reason for shutting down publication of the magazine.

Friends over at The Internet Archive and Textfiles have given us an early Christmas present: every issue of Wayne Green's 73 Magazine ever published, for free.

Read 73 online, or download PDF files here: http://www.archive.org/details/73-magazine

Magazine articles were scanned, quality corrected, and index by an army of individuals, and collected together for Internet Archive by Jason Scott of textfiles.org. See http://www.textfiles.com/hamradio/ for more ham radio related collections.

Archive.org was started by internet pioneer Brewster Kahle in 1996, with the goal of archiving internet history. While the resulting "Wayback Machine" is one of their best known projects, the Archive also engages in curated projects, such as the recent archive of all TV coverage on 9/11/01 at september11.archive.org.

~ Leigh/WA5ZNU

WebSDR

Want to work some DX but have no HF rig or antenna? I'm skipping ahead a bit to the planned topics of the February, March and April meetings but, you may want to play with software defined radio (SDR) ahead of time.

A WebSDR is a Software-Defined Radio receiver connected to the internet, allowing many listeners to listen and tune it simultaneously. SDR technology makes it possible that all listeners tune independently, and thus listen to *different* signals; this is in contrast to the many classical receivers that are already available via the internet.

More background information is available here. Questions and comments can be sent to PA3FWM, the author of the WebSDR software and maintainer of this site.

WebSDR servers can register themselves automatically on this site, leading to the following list of currently active WebSDR servers. Currently there are 26 servers active, with 88 users and 27479.8 kHz of radio spectrum. http://www.websdr.org/

QRM ...from the Editor's desk

Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share? Something to sell or something you are looking for? Email it to ve7ti@separs.net for inclusion in this column.

Makes you go "Hmmmm?"

Kind of an interesting concept! By the guru of free energy

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ghhgUmGBjX8

The 'Other' Surrey Amateur Radio Clubs

As you may well know, Surrey is not an unusual name for a city. This prompted me to go exploring on the Internet with the following of several results:

The **Surrey Radio Contact Club**, founded in 1935, is based in Croydon in the UK. They have a membership of 60 Amateurs and an interesting and diverse program. Find them on the web at g3src.org.uk.

The **Sutton & Cheam Radio Society** is located in the town of Sutton, Surrey UK. They offer a wide range of activities for their members. Look for their website at scrs.org.uk

It occurs to me that it may be interesting g to set up some type of an information exchange program. I'll explore further and report back in a future issue.

Burnaby Amateur Radio Club Swapmeet

Hello Amateur Radio Friends. I am sending this e-mail inviting you to order a table at our Swap-Meet Sunday Feb 26, 2012. This is at the Sullivan Community Center which is located at 152nd street and 64th Avenue in Surrey, BC.

Since there is a limited amount of tables left, we encourage you to perhaps share a table with a friend and reserve your table right away. We will accept table reservations in the order that they are received.

We will confirm all table reservations and include payment options in a separate attachment. These tables will sell out very quickly so let me know right away.

~ 73 Lou Beaubien VE7CGE

Can I Have "Amateur Radio" for $800, Alex?

If you were watching the popular television game show Jeopardy! -- where contestants have to answer in the form of a question -- on December 15, you might have noticed there was a question featuring Amateur Radio. In the first round, returning champ Boomie Aglietti was playing the category "Pastimes" when he encountered this "answer" worth $800: "The FCC assigns call signs, like N8DNR, to use in this hobby." Aglietti answered correctly with "ham radio."

N8DNR is the call sign of Debbie Dorfman of West Bloomfield, Michigan. Debbie is the mother of Stephen Dorfman, N6DIW (SK). Stephen was a writer for Jeopardy! from 1984 until he passed away in 2004 at age 48 due to complications from cancer. According to the New York Times, Dorfman was Jeopardy!'s longest serving and most prolific writer, with more than 50,000 clues to his credit. As part of a team of writers, he won six Daytime Emmy Awards for special-class writing, given for shows that do not fit into traditional categories. On the Jeopardy! episode that aired January 3, 2008, another Dorfman call sign was featured -- this one of Stephen's father Neil -- also for $800, in the category "If You're...": "...using a call sign like K8RX, you're engaged in this hobby."

And Finally...

How do you know when it is time to "hang up the car keys"?

I say when your dog has this look on his face!

QRT John Brodie VA7XB

The SARC Year in Review

Introduction

In short, it has been a good year with a number of positive things to report. We have tried to present to our membership a variety of interesting activities throughout the year, in the hope that every member will find some aspect of this great hobby that particularly interests them. A growing membership can be taken as a sign that we are doing a few things right. It is gratifying to report that our membership grew by 25% in 2011, and there are several reasons for this.

Ham Classes

One reason is the encouragement and professional coaching given to prospective amateurs by Gary Skett VE7AS, who has graduated single-handedly around 150 new hams over the past 5 years. This year he gave both a spring and fall basic class, and has another planned for early 2012. Many of these students have become active members of SARC, adding their talents to the group.

Communicator

We give credit to John Schouten VE7TI who has taken on the job of producing this remarkable newsletter every month. Of course, there are several contributors to the content particularly Gary VE7AS who produces technical notes and Susan VE7IIE who generates a member profile every month.

Website

What you see when you go to www.ve7sar.net is an impressive website of modern design and functionality, thanks to Susan VE7IIE who put in many long hours and her considerable professional talents to create it. The site is now maintained by Hiu VE7YXG.

Interesting Programs - Expert Panel

One of our best was the panel discussion at one of our meetings where members could ask an expert panel questions about the hobby and how to get the most out of it.

Interesting Programs - Go Kits Show & Tell

Here's another example of the kind of successful meetings we had this year – the show & tell of Go kits constructed by our members.

Spring Fox Hunt and Barbeque

An annual event organized by Anton James VE7SSD in co-operation with BC Radiosport – a competitive search for hidden transmitters using directional antennas

Swap Meet

The Swap Meet and raffle are put on in conjunction with Langley Amateur Radio Association – as much a social event as a fund raiser.

Field Day/ FD Video

Field Day is an emergency response exercise/competition held the last week of June every year. This year we scored 2nd in BC and 3rd in Canada in our class.

One thing that came out of this was the need to work on our operating skills so that instead of being no. 3 in Canada we might aspire to be no.1.

Operator Skills Training

This was a new program started in September and it looks to be a really successful activity that will raise our operating capability to another level. Jim Smith VE7FO and Fred VE7IO have worked tirelessly to round up a small group of operators that have an interest in HF radio operating and train them, through participation in monthly contests.

New Repeater Site

The repeater relocation is not happening as quickly as we hoped, however the equipment is all ready for installation once Surrey Fire Services tells us it's a "go". We expect repeater usability to be dramatically improved throughout Surrey and the Lower Mainland once we have relocated to this 36 story high-rise in Central Surrey.